(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Anumber of cities and towns have been proposed by some State Governments for construction of new airports such as Pakyong (Sikkim), Chiethu (Nagaland), Mopa (Goa), Chakan & Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), Ludhiana (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Gulbarga, Bellary & Bijapur (Karnataka), Kannur (Kerala) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).

(c) So far, Government has approved construction of Greenfield Airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad to be constructed by the respective Joint Venture Companies. The cost of the projects is currently estimated approximately Rs. 1400 crores each.

Availability of aeroplanes in comparison to the passengers

†3411. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI. Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of aeroplanes is much less in comparison to the demands of the passengers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of new aeroplanes operationalised during the last five years; and

(c) the number of aeroplanes available in the country at present and the average daily operationalisation of the aeroplanes out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During last years, passenger traffic has grown approximately by 24% which has given rise to the need for increasing aircraft capacity of scheduled operators.

(b) The number of aeroplanes inducted by scheduled airlines during the last five years is 99.

(c) The number of the aeroplanes available in the country at present with scheduled airlines is 184, out of which on an average 168 aeroplanes are planned for daily operations.

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†Ortginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.